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GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS
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VACANCIES, MARCH 1976
(PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- A special survey of employers showed that in March 1976 there were an estimated 45,700 job vacancies in Australia (26,000 for males, 10,500 for females and 9,300 for either males or females without preference).
- The estimates show a decrease of 9,500 job vacancies from the March 1975 figure of 55,200, and a decrease of 119,500 from the March 1974 estimate of 165,200.
- Between March 1975 and March 1976 estimated total job vacancies fell in all States and Territories except Victoria.
- Vacancies in the manufacturing sector remained at about the same level as in March 1975.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

A survey of private and government employers was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about job vacancies at the end of March 1976. This statement contains preliminary estimates based on returns covering 87 per cent of employers included in the survey. Final and more detailed estimates will be published as soon as possible.

2. Results of the first two surveys conducted were published in *Job Vacancies, March 1974 and March 1975* (Reference No. 6.49).

Scope and coverage

3. The surveys covered vacancies for all wage and salary earners other than vacancies in the defence forces, in agriculture and in private households employing staff, vacancies for waterside workers employed on a casual basis, and vacancies in establishments of private employers (other than hospitals) not subject to payroll tax. At the time of selection for the surveys payroll tax was payable by employers paying more than \$400 a week in wages and salaries (other than certain Australian Government bodies, religious and benevolent institutions, public hospitals and other similar organisations specifically exempted under the Australian and State Payroll Tax Acts 1971-1974).

4. Included in the survey results are vacancies for all categories of employees, including managerial, full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary and seasonal employees; and adults, juniors, trainees, apprentices, cadets, etc. Excluded are vacancies that would have been filled by persons already hired, by promotion or transfer of existing employees, or by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial disputes. Also excluded are vacancies that were not immediately available for filling on the survey date, that is, those that became available after the specified date. The surveys did not cover vacancies for work to be done under contract, such as by building sub-contractors, owner-drivers, etc.

5. Because the surveys were limited in scope and coverage (e.g. private employers not subject to payroll tax were excluded) the results do not give the total number of job vacancies in Australia at the survey dates. The underestimation may be greater in those industries (e.g. retail trade) and occupations (e.g. shop assistants) where the payroll tax coverage is low.

Sample Design

6. Employers included in the surveys were selected from lists of employers stratified by State, industry and number of employees. All Australian and State government departments and authorities, private employers with 500 or more employees and local government authorities with 200 or more employees were included in the surveys. Samples of private payroll taxpayers, non-government hospitals and local government authorities were selected from the remainder. In 1976 the total number of employers in the survey was about 8,500; however, the preliminary estimates for 1976 contained in this statement have been based on the responses of 7,400 employers.

Definitions

7. A *job vacancy* was defined as a job immediately available for filling on the survey date and for which active steps were being taken by the employer to find or recruit an employee from outside the enterprise or authority in the particular State or Territory. Active steps to find or recruit an employee included efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying government or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or authority.

8. *Vacancies for males or females* are those jobs open to male or female applicants without preference.

9. The *job vacancy rate* is calculated by expressing the number of job vacancies as a percentage of the number of employees plus vacancies.

Reliability of the Estimates

10. The 1976 estimates published in this statement are based on 87 per cent of the total number of survey returns and are therefore subject to revision..

11. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample, they will in many cases differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

12. Standard errors for estimates shown in this statement are less than 20 per cent except where indicated. State estimates for males and total State estimates all have associated standard errors of less than 15 per cent while those for total Australian figures are less than 10 per cent. Standard errors for vacancy rates are all less than 12 per cent.

13. The imprecision due to sampling variability should not be confused with other inaccuracies such as those which may occur because of imperfections due to reporting by respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error and may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort has been made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, efficient operating procedures and careful editing of the returns.

NOTE: Estimates of job vacancies shown in this statement have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Percentages have been rounded to the first decimal place. Any discrepancies between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

JOB VACANCIES, MARCH 1974, MARCH 1975 AND MARCH 1976 (a)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia (b)	
JOB VACANCIES								
	Number ('000)						Per cent of total	
For males -								
1974	41.0	32.1	13.3	9.0	7.1	1.7	106.4	64.4
1975	11.6	8.5	3.4	2.4	3.3	0.9	31.7	57.3
1976	7.0	9.6	3.1	2.3	2.5	0.6	26.0	56.8
For females -								
1974	14.4	13.4	5.7	2.4	2.1	0.5	39.2	23.7
1975	4.7	2.9	1.9	0.7	0.5	0.2	11.3	20.5
1976	3.8	3.6	1.7	0.6	0.3	(e)0.2	10.5	22.9
For males or females -								
1974	7.3	6.0	1.6	0.8	0.9	0.2	19.7	11.9
1975	2.9	3.5	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.1	12.2	22.1
1976	2.1	4.1	0.8	(e)1.2	0.5	0.3	9.3	20.4
Total -								
1974	62.7	51.6	20.6	12.2	10.1	2.4	165.2	100.0
1975	19.3	14.9	7.1	4.1	4.4	1.2	55.2	100.0
1976	13.0	17.2	5.6	4.1	3.3	1.1	45.7	100.0
Manufacturing (c) -								
1974	26.4	25.4	5.7	5.6	3.5	0.9	67.8	41.0
1975	6.1	5.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	0.4	15.4	27.9
1976	4.9	6.4	(e)1.4	1.7	0.9	(e)0.3	15.7	34.3
Non-manufacturing (d) -								
1974	36.3	26.2	14.9	6.7	6.6	1.5	97.4	59.0
1975	13.2	9.8	5.9	2.8	3.1	0.8	39.8	72.1
1976	8.1	10.8	4.2	2.4	2.4	0.8	30.1	65.8

JOB VACANCY RATES (a)

March								
1974	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.1	3.0	2.0	3.6	
1975	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	
1976	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 7 to 9 above. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) Division C. (d) ASIC Divisions A to L, excluding Division C (manufacturing), Sub-divisions 01, 02 (agriculture, etc.) and 94 (private households employing staff), and defence forces. (e) Standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent - see paragraph 12 above.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Belconnen. A.C.T. 2616

R. W. COLE
Australian Statistician

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Godfrey Laurie on 52 6573 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.